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**RAINMEN PREVIEW
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UP THE PRESSURE
THIS SEASON** {page 16}



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{page 14}

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News worth
sharing.

‘We miss her and love her’

► Parents of Amber Kirwan speak publicly for first time in daughter’s missing-person case ► Police searching for New Glasgow teen, who hasn’t been seen in over three weeks ► Investigators acting on tips from public



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



**JENNIFER
TAPLIN**
@METRONEWS.CA

Amber Kirwan was just an average teenager “living life” before she disappeared nearly a month ago, said her mother.

Marjorie and Donald Kirwan appeared before the media yesterday for the first time since their daughter went missing on Oct. 9. Marjorie read a brief statement, her voice trembling occasionally, but otherwise showing little emotion. Donald sat quietly by her side.

“We want the public to know what kind of daughter Amber is, and the only way to describe Amber is sweet an innocent,” she said.

Marjorie said her daughter was always respectful of her family and would text her mother often to let her know what she was doing.

“Amber’s family, boyfriend and friends mean the world to her. She’s very protective of her younger brother and always texting him and making sure he’s on the right path.”

Amber hasn’t been seen or heard from since she left Dooly’s pool hall in New Glasgow at around 1:30 a.m. on Oct. 9 to walk to a nearby con-

“She’s not only beautiful on the outside, she’s beautiful on the inside.”

MARJORIE KIRWAN
MOTHER OF AMBER KIRWAN

venience store to meet her boyfriend, Mason Campbell. She never showed up.

Amber graduated from Northumberland Regional High School last year, and Marjorie described it as a very exciting point in Amber’s life. She moved into an apartment in June and was studying to become a nurse.

“For weeks now we’ve been praying that any day she’ll be home. We miss her and love her very much,” she said.

She asked anyone with information to come forward and let police decide whether it’s relevant to the investigation.

More coverage {page 3}



For video of yesterday’s statement, visit metronews.ca/halifax

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Ships Start Here partnership to continue

The partnership that spawned the ubiquitous Ships Start Here advertising campaign is now focusing on how Nova Scotia businesses can best take advantage of the federal government's \$25-billion shipbuilding contract for Halifax's Irving Shipyard.

Premier Darrell Dexter told the House of Assembly yesterday the Ships Start Here partnership, a conglomeration of business,

government and labour leaders, will remain intact.

"The unity of purpose that motivated that partnership will now be evident in the months and years ahead, to ensure that Nova Sco-



Darrell Dexter

tians work together, earn our way on merit," said Dexter.

"They will work with Irving to ensure that Nova Scotia suppliers and businesses from all over the province can make the most of this opportunity."

The partnership includes NSCC president Don Bureaux, Halifax Chamber of Commerce president Valerie Payn and Rick Clarke of the Canadian Federation

of Labour. Nova Scotia Business Inc., the government's economic-development outfit, will also be involved.

"First of all, we can identify for suppliers right across the province what their opportunities are going to be in those contracts, and the further kind of value-add to that is to identify where there are potential contractors or suppliers who are current-

ly in a position to supply one element of the contract, but with some help, could upgrade and fit themselves in higher up in the supply chain," Dexter said outside the legislature.

The province will not be ponying up additional funding, but Dexter said the partnership can help businesses identify government departments they can "plug in" for assistance. ● ALEX BOUTILIER

Town on constant vigil for Kirwan

► Police released surveillance video recently of teenager leaving bar



JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

Amber Kirwan's face is well known in New Glasgow. Her posters are plastered on storefront windows, at intersections, on power poles and even in restaurant bathroom stalls.

Across the street from Dooly's, the last place Kirwan was seen on Oct. 9, hundreds of candles are stacked on a brick retaining wall.

Behind the wall on the grass sits a massive poster of Kirwan. A big stuffed dog keeps vigil, along with several pumpkins with the words "hope," "pray," and "Amber" carved into them. There are also a few green silk flowers that matched the green ribbons her parents wore yesterday as

"I wish she would come home safely."

NEW GLASGOW RESIDENT
THELMA STEELE

they spoke to the media for the first time since her disappearance.

But yesterday many of the candles were floating in their jars from all the recent rain. Long-time New Glasgow resident Thelma Steele stopped by to empty out the water and talked about the impact Kirwan's disappearance has had on the town.

"It's being talked about all over," said Steele, who has an 18-year-old son herself. "When she first disappeared, we were on our Facebook and people would find stuff out and let us know about it, but now they're not allowed to do that."

Every night, Steele goes



► Thelma Steele dumps water from candleholders in front of a vigil set up for Amber Kirwan in downtown New Glasgow yesterday.

out her back door and prays for Kirwan's safety. She said she just doesn't know why Kirwan would disappear.

"We're all there for her," she said.

Over a dozen officers

are assigned to find Kirwan. For weeks, search teams, investigators, K-9 units and forensics teams have scoured wooded areas and waterways in Pictou County.

"Police investigators

continue to follow up on valuable tips and information, and collect possible items of interest provided from the general public," said Const. Ken MacDonald with the New Glasgow police yesterday.



A study of U.S. nurses broadens the apparent link between breast cancer and alcohol consumption to include light drinkers. Scan code for story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web at
metronews.ca

The month of October brought welcome relief to investors, but Allan Small warns we're not out of the woods yet. More at metronews.ca/investing



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► Chef Richard Julien of Chef Live carves a 600-pound pumpkin with a chainsaw at Halifax Seeds yesterday. Julien will make pies for the Pumpkins for Prostate fundraiser, to be sold on the Offshore Technology Association of Nova Scotia website for \$10 each.

HEATHER GILLIS/FOR METRO

Getting messy for a good cause

Nurses get raise

- ▶ Arbitrator splits difference between employer's offer, union demand
- ▶ Deal sets baseline for negotiations



**ALEX
BOUTILIER**
@METRONEWS.CA

A provincial arbitrator has delivered a decision on a three-year deal for approximately 2,500 nurses in the Capital Health District Authority.

The deal includes a one per cent retroactive raise for 2009 and 2010, as well as a 1.6 per cent raise on May 1, 2012. On top of that, the 2,500 nurses of Local 97 received a 3.5 per cent wage hike that came into effect yesterday.

Nova Scotia Government

& General Employees Union president Joan Jes-some applauded the deal yesterday.

Jessome said the deal puts the nurses ahead of their counterparts in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Manitoba.

But she said it also opens the door for the union to move ahead of higher-paid nurses in Newfoundland during the next round of negotiations.

"We're already preparing to go after more (than one per cent increases)... (The decision) will certainly form a baseline," she said.

Health Minister Maureen MacDonald couldn't put a dollar figure on the settlement agreement — or whether the province or Capital Health will be on the hook.

"We're still doing an evaluation of the decision to establish what the financial implications are, and once we have a better understanding of that, we'll work with the Capital District in terms of implementing the decision," MacDonald told reporters yesterday.

"That work is already underway."

Market demand, utility cost blamed for paper mill woes

Another pulp and paper mill in Nova Scotia is re-examining its economic situation.

Bowater Mersey mill in Brooklyn will shut down from Nov. 14 to 21, and may shut down for the last two weeks of December.

Pierre Choquette, regional spokesman for AbitibiBowater, said yesterday that the shutdown is mostly due to the lagging pulp market.

"Obviously, market demand is still down, that's one," said Choquette. "But also we need to address with mill management the issues concerning our cost structure."

Those issues include the cost of power in the province. Bowater, along with NewPage Port Hawkesbury — Nova Scotia's Power Inc.'s two largest customers — have petitioned the province's

300 The number of people working at Bowater Mersey paper mill.

Utility and Review Board
for a break in power rates.

But Choquette said there are also concerns about labour costs.

"We need to get the mill more competitive, obviously, and that's what we want to address. But right now, there's no decisions or scenarios that we're specifically looking at, we just need to first and foremost address those issues and see what happens," he said.

Premier Darrell Dexter said the province has been in discussions with Bowater about their situation.

"The pulp and paper industry right across the world is under an incredible amount of pressure," Dexter told reporters yesterday. **ALEX BOUTILIER**

Judge pulled from case for alleged bias

The Supreme Court of Nova Scotia has removed a provincial court judge from a case and ordered that it be heard by another judge.

Justice Cindy Bourgeois said in her decision released yesterday that comments made by the provincial court judge showed a "reasonable ap-

prehension of bias" in favour of one of the parties in the case, which involved charges related to fisheries regulations.

Bourgeois said Robert Stroud made several remarks in court earlier this year that may have given the perception of bias because of their cumulative effect.

"The comments would certainly contribute to a reasonable person concluding there was a reasonable apprehension of bias, and that the provincial court judge's

Bid numbers narrowing

Four bidders remain in the running for the idled NewPage Port Hawkesbury paper mill in Cape Breton.

Court-appointed monitor Ernst & Young says the list of potential buyers has been reduced to "four entities" and talks with them have begun. The monitor didn't reveal the names of the bidders.

The number of potential buyers of the closed mill started at 21 and has been whittled down.

Ernst & Young was appointed monitor in the case by the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia after NewPage applied for protection from its creditors in September under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act. About 1,000 people lost their jobs after the company said it was losing money due to declining demand for its product and a strong Canadian dollar.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Convincing case

Justice Cindy Bourgeois cited an instance when Stroud said he was convinced of the Crown's position on a jurisdictional question before he had heard arguments from the defence.

mind was not 'perfectly open' to the positions of both parties," Bourgeois wrote in her 21-page decision after hearing arguments last month in Sydney. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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More than 22,000 using food banks: Survey

► In Nova Scotia, 97 food banks represented in survey ► Over 145,00 meals, snacks provided through meal programs, soup kitchens and food banks



HEATHER GILLIS
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

Feed Nova Scotia's Dianne Swinemar once believed there would be a time when food banks wouldn't be needed in Canada.

"Fortunately or unfortunately, whatever way you want to look at it, we've done a great job of procuring food and getting it out to the most vulnerable," she said.

And those people are many.

According to Hunger-Count 2011, an annual national survey on food-bank usage, 22,505 people in Nova Scotia used food banks in March of this year — including 9,305 people from HRM.

That is a 0.3 per cent decrease overall province-wide after two consecutive years of increased usage.

"We're motivated to push for structural change to ensure the small decline we've experienced this year develops into a downward trend, bringing better days for Nova Scotians struggling with hunger," said Swinemar, executive director of Feed Nova Scotia, during a press conference at its food-distribution warehouse on the Bedford Highway yesterday.

The survey, which tracks the number of Canadians using food banks over a one-month period, saw almost two million kilograms of food distributed in Nova



► Janet Benvie, a volunteer with Feed Nova Scotia, separates food at its warehouse on the Bedford Highway yesterday.

Scotia in March, just over 54 per cent was given out in HRM.

The municipality also has the highest rate of single-parent families using food banks at 26 per cent.

Overall, the municipality saw a two per cent decrease from March of 2010 — the smallest decrease among the regions in the province that saw declines.

Food-bank use near record high

The number of people using food banks in Canada remains near record highs, two years after the end of the last recession.

The annual study done

by Food Banks Canada shows that during one snapshot month in 2011, more than 850,000 people relied on food hand-outs.

That's down two per cent from the record high of 2010, but it's the second-highest on record, and 26 per cent higher than before the recession in 2008. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

A sobering holiday message

The holidays are fast approaching and if you're going to indulge in a cup of holiday cheer Mother's Against Drunk Driving has a warning for you: don't drink and drive.

MADD launched its 24th Red Ribbon holiday awareness campaign during a press conference yesterday at Province House.

"We need to speak to them when they're sober, and catch them when they're impaired," said Denise Dubyk, national president of MADD Canada.

"But let's talk to them when they're sober so they get the message and it's instilled within everyone."

Dubyk said on average about four people are killed and 190 injured each day due to impaired driving.



► Denise Dubyk

HEATHER GILLIS

To donate

You can text 45678 to donate \$10 to MADD and receive a red ribbon pin. The donation is added to your cellphone bill.

Woman in image calls cops

A third woman has been identified in connection with an apparent voyeurism case in Halifax.

Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter said yesterday the woman was out of the country but heard through a friend her image appeared recently on the TV news.

She contacted police and spoke with investigators.

Palmeter said the woman had no idea she was being photographed in the specific image, which, like the others, appears to be taken in a bedroom-like setting and through a window screen. In an attempt to identify four women police obtained images of, their photos were released to the media on Sept. 29.

Police have a "person of interest," and Palmeter said a decision on charges is expected soon.

PHILIP CROUCHER

Masked men attack women on Halloween

Police say two men in masks approached two women on Micmac Boulevard in Dartmouth yesterday, with one assaulted and the other having her purse stolen.

The woman that was assaulted received minor injuries, but didn't require medical treatment.

Police say one of the suspects was wearing a Halloween mask and the other a black ski mask. Both fled the scene on foot. **METRO**

Boom in foreign shipments expected

Canada's export agency says Nova Scotia's international shipments are expected to grow by nine per cent next year — the most of any Atlantic province.

Export Development Canada credits better prices for seafood as well as growth in the North American automotive industry and particularly the energy sector for the upswing. Natural gas exports are expected to soar next year. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

News in brief

STUART WILSON/GETTY IMAGES



► Prince

Prices set for Prince show

METRO CENTRE. Tickets to see Prince at the Halifax Metro Centre will run up to either \$163, \$99 or \$59, it was announced yesterday.

The 53-year-old Grammy-award-winning singer is playing the Metro Centre on Nov. 30 as part of his Welcome 2 Canada tour.

Tickets go on sale Saturday at 9 a.m. through Ticket Atlantic. **METRO**

Making it easier when grieving a loss

LEGISLATION. The province is looking to expand the number of people who can sign death certificates in a bid to expedite the process for grieving

families.

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations Minister John MacDonnell introduced legislation yesterday that would allow nurse practitioners to sign death certificates.

Currently, only doctors and medical examiners can sign the certificates, which MacDonnell said can delay the process, especially in rural areas of Nova Scotia. **METRO**

Arson behind massive Slave Lake fire: Officials

The Alberta government says it believes arson was behind a wildfire that ravaged the town of Slave Lake last spring.

Frank Oberle, minister of sustainable resources, yesterday said that the file has been turned over to the RCMP.

"It's extremely disappointing and my heart goes out to the people that lost homes or property," Oberle told a news conference.

"This further exacerbates that."

He said his investigators have determined it was arson because they've ruled out all other possible causes for the blaze, which took out 400 homes and businesses on May 15. He wouldn't say how they've definitively ruled out the fire was not set accidentally, such as by a careless



▶ A home destroyed by the fire in Slave Lake.

camper failing to properly extinguish a fire.

"Our investigation eliminated all natural, industrial or accidental causes."

Oberle said investigators have determined where the fire started, but he wouldn't give the co-ordinates.

"We know there was no lightning at that site, no power-line malfunction and no campfire located at that site, so a process of elimination gets us to the only reasonable conclusion." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Costly disaster

- ▶ Total damage was pegged at \$700 million, which insurance adjusters estimate makes it the second-costliest disaster next to the Quebec-Ontario ice storm of 1998, which cost about \$1.8 billion.
- ▶ The fire forced all 7,000 residents to leave for two weeks as fire crews completed salvage work and police secured the area.
- ▶ No one was hurt, but a fire-fighting helicopter pilot crashed on Lesser Slave Lake and died. There were 1,400 firefighters deployed along with 170 helicopters and tankers.
- ▶ The province delivered almost \$300 million in aid, including millions for modular homes for residents who lost everything.

Shaving. Session



▶ NDP MP Peter Stoffer, right, and Tory MP Larry Miller have their moustaches shaved of on Parliament Hill in Ottawa yesterday.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Movember on Parliament Hill

The lawmakers had their facial hair removed in support of Prostate Cancer Canada and the Movember Foundation. The NDP's late leader Jack Layton lost his battle with cancer in August.

Manipulation is key in sex trade

Police investigator says relationship is exploitative



JAMES TURNER
@METRONWS.CA
METRO CANADA IN WINNIPEG

A mind for business, a measure of online savvy and a mendacious ability to manipulate using influence, not force.

These are among the attributes some who operate illegal sex-trade enterprises share, a report authored by a veteran Winnipeg police morals unit investigator suggests.

For more than a decade, Sgt. Gene Bowers has been the city's go-to expert for police when it comes to probing Winnipeg's sex-trade underworld.

The Crown requested Bowers file a statement of opinion regarding the case of a woman awaiting sentencing for running a bawdy house in Winnipeg.

"There are a number of overt and oppressive strategies that bawdy-house keepers, escort services, massage parlour

owners and pimps can use to procure people into prostitution or keep them from leaving the sex trade," Bowers said.

But often, a common tactic operators employ to keep people working for them is to befriend them and let them believe they're engaged in a joint business relationship, he said.

"The relationship is exploitative but appears to be reciprocal on the surface," he stated.

6th suspicious package found at party store

Bomb-squad robots were back at work at a Toronto costume store yesterday after two more suspicious packages were found at the business, bringing the total to six.

Police say officers checking Amazing Party and Costume found the sixth package around noon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cancer our biggest killer: StatsCan

A new report says cancer and heart disease were responsible for just over half of Canada's 238,617 deaths in 2008.

And Statistics Canada reports cancer was the leading cause of death in every province and territory for the first time.

Cancer accounted for 30 per cent of all deaths in 2008. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Canadian, family freed from Saudi jail

A Canadian man, his wife and two young children have been released after spending more than a month in a Saudi Arabian prison.

A senior government official says Majeed Uddin Ahmed and his family have been released on bail and given 25 days to leave Saudi Arabia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

First come, First served.



Doctors often use questionnaires or introductory appointments to collect health information about new patients. Learning about the medical history of new patients helps doctors provide better care. However, doctors are not permitted to use this information to exclude or unfairly discriminate against new patients, including those with more complex health problems.

Some doctors are permitted to limit their practices to specific types of patients. These doctors have specific skills, or a focus on treating certain types of patients, such as women, children, or elderly people. In addition, most medical specialists usually see only patients who are referred to them by another doctor.

For more information, see *Common Questions about Doctors, Non-insured Services, Prescriptions and Medical Records* at www.cpsns.ns.ca/info.aspx



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One operation, two new lives

- ▶ Conjoined twins are separated in day-long surgery
- ▶ Two-year-old girls were joined at chest, abdomen

Angelina and Angelica Sabuco have just been given new lives — apart.

In the two years since they were born, the twin girls have been joined at the chest and abdomen.

But yesterday doctors at Stanford University's children's hospital in California separated them in a remarkable day-long operation.

The surgery on the two Philippines-born tots was expected to take nine hours. More than 20 doctors and nurses were taking part.

By mid-afternoon, hospital spokesperson Reena Mukamal announced the girls had been separated and moved to their own operating rooms for the second phase of the procedure — reconstructing the area where they were connected.

Mukamal said doctors were pleased with the progress of the surgery so far.

The complex operation involved cutting along the girls' skin and muscle and separating their diaphragms and livers.

Severing the liver was going to be the riskiest part of the procedure because of potential blood loss, said lead surgeon Dr. Gary Hartman before the operating room drama began.

Hartman, who has done five separation procedures at medical centres around the U.S., said he expected the operation to go well.



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

► Angelina, left, and Angelica Sabuco are cuddled by mom Ginady Sabuco a day before the complex operation that separated them.

"We want them to live normally. When they argue, they can be alone. When they play, they can play together or apart. When they don't want to see each other, they won't have to."

GINADY SABUCO, MOTHER

Keeping the girls joined would carry bigger risks for their health, doctors had said.

If one conjoined twin died, the other would die within hours. Muscular and skeletal deformities can also worsen with time.

Before the operation, the girls' livers, diaphragms, breastbones, chest and abdominal wall muscles were fused. They have separate hearts, brains, kidneys, stomachs and intestines.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

sentence because of aggravating factors.

"This legislation stands up for victims of fraud and makes it easier for them to seek the restitution that they deserve," said Justice Minister Rob Nicholson.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Black day for white-collar crime

Fraudsters found guilty of white-collar crimes in Canada now face tougher sentences and penalties.

Ottawa officially introduced tougher rules yesterday to deal with Ponzi schemers and white-collar fraudsters.

part of just-adopted Tory
legislation first tabled in
2009

The stiffer penalties include: a mandatory two-year prison sentence for fraud over \$1 million; financial restitution for victims; latitude for a judge to stiffen a



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MY PROTEST WILL LAST LONGER THAN KIM'S MARRIAGE

JUST
SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO



That's it.

I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore.

Today, the news wires are clogged with the pathetic denouement of the Kardashian

marriage. Kim, famous for nothing, dissolved her \$10-million wedding 72 days after she and collateral damage Kris Humphries collected a cool \$17.8 million for royalties from the vastly overblown event.

How do I know all this? All I had to do was go to my home page, iGoogle, and there were 2,968 Kardashian stories available for my edification.

At the same time Syria put land mines along the border with Lebanon, but that was a real yawner warranting a mere 360 articles. Do the math. That's 10 times more articles about Kim Kardashian than impending war between Syria and Lebanon.

This much ado about nothing comes at a time when journalists are whining about how our precious profession is being twittered to death by ducks. The truth is, what's really killing the news is a serious overdose of Kim Kardashian.

Of course, there wouldn't be any Kim Kardashian news if the public didn't want it. What's wrong with you people? Had enough of Jennifer Aniston?

Still, I wonder about all those otherwise grownup professionals who filed copy about the world's foremost phoney and her feckless boy-toy. It reminds me of the Richard Brautigan poem I Feel Horrible. She Doesn't: "I wander around the house like a sewing machine that's just finished sewing a turd to a garbage can lid."

As a protest against this outrage against humanity, I will Occupy the Internet until it stops.

I don't want to hear any more mealy mouthed arguments for "celebrity" journalism and "reality" TV, the Kardashian spawning ground.

I don't want to hear any more nonsense about how journalism is threatened by technology or the Mayan Calendar or global warming. It's threatened by bad choices. All we have to do is stop writing about Kim Kardashian. And other pointless phenomena.

I'm OK with confining Justin Bieber and Jennifer Aniston to the entertainment pages, although the actual form of entertainment has yet to be determined. But enough about Kim Kardashian's \$10-million phoney marriage, which could feed the one billion people on this planet who go hungry every night. That's just wrong.

I know, it's hard to Occupy the Internet, as that's the whole point of the Internet. There's no there there. But that doesn't stop Kim Kardashian, who does it every day.

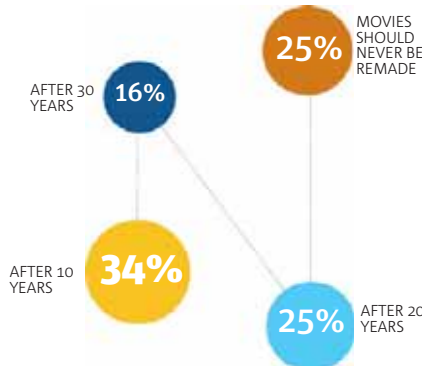
So it won't stop me either. This is my tent. I'm staying until they drag me away.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying



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How soon is too soon to remake a film?



Local tweets



► @Clayt

Beaton: Prince playing in Halifax and Madonna rumored to play in Moncton. I wonder what else is new in 1987...

► @RealEstateinHFX: Okay #Halifax, I'm leaning to either the Tom Selleck or the Hulk Hogan 'stache. Largest donation by noon Friday decides my final 'stache.

► @Jodieab: Some people must still be in Halloween costumes today. It's the only explanation for wearing

CanadaGoose coats in 9°C weather #Halifax #dumb

► @suzannechantal: Feeling like having my fortune told. Where in #halifax can I do this? #needsomereassurance

► @lukejamesbgn: It's very good "sit down and think" weather in #Halifax right now.

► @MaritimeMax: Wow the QEH site looks like it was never there #Halifax

► @brentrockwood: Why is it that UPS takes longer to get my package from Dartmouth to Halifax than it does to get from Philadelphia to Dartmouth?

Letters

Human sexuality is a wonderful and complex phenomenon and we can't always easily answer questions like "Am I gay?" or "Am I bisexual?" without deeper introspection. If you have identified your sexual orientation, and you are gay or lesbian, you may be struggling to come to terms with it.

In Dr. Richard Niolon's coming-out process he identifies five stages a person can follow:

1. Self-recognition as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT).
2. Disclosure to others.
3. Socialization with other LGBT.
4. Positive self-identification.
5. Integration and acceptance, where you are open about your sexuality to yourself, even if you prefer being discreet about it.

The most difficult part of this five-step program is Step 1 — acknowledging and accepting your sexual orientation.

While the Canadian law is extremely supportive of gay and lesbian rights, in the end, psychological and emotional support are equally important.

ALEX SANGHA
SOCIAL WORKER
DELTA, B.C.



► This photo titled **No Man is an Island** was submitted to the Relationships category by Louise Bourgeois from Ottawa.

photo of the day

Metro invites its readers to join the Metro Global Photo Challenge — running in 100 cities on four continents — to win fantastic prizes and world-wide recognition. Enter your digital photos at metrophotochallenge.com. The contest runs until Nov. 22. As well as a chance to win a trip to any city Metro publishes, one submission will also be featured here daily.

WEIRD NEWS

Resorts have gone to the dogs

You are spending the holidays with Aunt Nellie in Kansas. Your dog will be staying in a hotel suite called Neiman Barcus with a flat-screen TV. There might be surf lessons, catered meals, a massage, pawdicure, spa bath and photo shoot.

Boarding your pet has changed a lot over the past decade. If money is no object, there is no end to the extravagances you can order for your pet. The Barkley Pet Hotel & Day Spa — which really does have a Neiman Barcus suite — is a one-of-a-kind animal funhouse

REED SAXON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS







► Yorkshire terrier
Betsey Johnson

in Westlake Village, northwest of Los Angeles. You can rent a Serenity Suite for \$44 a night or reserve a storefront suite on Rodeo Drive or Hollywood Boulevard (they start at \$72.50 a night). Add-ons include day-camp sessions, limousine pickup and delivery, surf lessons, charm school, a mud mask, obedience training, holiday fur-dyeing and filet mignon.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market
moment

TSX	Dollar
	
- 136.95 (12,115.10)	- 2.18¢ (98.15¢ US)
Oil	Natural gas
	
- \$1.00 US (\$92.19 US)	\$3.781 (- 15.0¢)
	Gold
	\$1,711.80 (- \$13.40)

Next-gen network attracts droves

► Company aims to connect almost one million customers through its fibre optic network

Bell Aliant Inc. expects to connect close to one million homes and businesses to its fibre optic network for high-speed Internet and digital TV services by the end of 2012, about 50 per cent more than anticipated.

"We're adding more customers than expected," Bell Aliant CEO Karen Sheriff said yesterday said after Atlantic Canada's largest telecom company posted net income of almost \$76 mil-

lion, turning around a loss recorded a year earlier.

Sheriff noted Bell Aliant has said it was going to go beyond its goal of 600,000 by the end of 2012 but hadn't put a number on it. She said 900,000 to one million homes and businesses are "in the ballpark of what we think makes sense."

Bell Aliant expects to reach 450,000 homes and businesses by the end of this year, up from the previ-

ous estimate of 430,000, she said. The company will spend more than \$450 million on the network by the end of 2012. A decision on whether the company will go out in search of financing for the network expansion won't be made for a while, she said.

The company provides telephone, Internet, television and other services to customers in Canada's six most eastern provinces and

is partly owned by BCE Inc. of Montreal.

Bell Aliant's new fibre optic network allows faster downloads of data such as music or movies and the ability to share video and photos faster. It is also used for high-definition television and high-speed Internet.

Sheriff said Bell Aliant is competing with EastLink digital TV and Internet services in Atlantic Canada ter-

ritory and Central Canada territory. It also competes with Rogers, Cogeco Inc. and Quebecor's Videotron.

Desjardins Financial analyst Maher Yaghi said he believes Bell Aliant will need to connect at least 900,000 premises to its fibre optic network. "Overall, significant customer losses for Bell Aliant are still occurring, eroding legacy revenue," Yaghi said.

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2
scene

Scene at a glance



Jimmy Kimmel is going to be cracking jokes for the U.S. president. The White House Correspondents' Association says the Jimmy Kimmel Live! host will be the featured comedian at its 98th annual dinner next year. Kimmel said in a statement that he is looking forward to being part of the event on April 28, 2012, adding, "I love dinner!"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



From Ugly Betty to foxy Roxie: America Ferrera to play the Chicago femme fatale in London

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



The week after Halloween is a strange time to be writing about Christmas movies. Almost like cooking a Thanksgiving dinner in July.

But if department stores can display Lady Gaga masks beside Christmas ornaments and Hollywood can release A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas while we're still digesting our Halloween haul, I can write about some movies that put the tinsel in Tinsel Town.

Harold and Kumar isn't your average Christmas movie.

I doubt Jimmy Stewart would have considered burning down the family Christmas tree part of his wonderful Yuletide life, but Harold and Kumar aren't the first to put the X into Xmas.

Many movies are set at Christmastime — the Brat Packer flick Less Than Zero features an LA Yule, and Die Hard takes place on Christmas Eve — but I'm thinking of movies that use the holidays as a springboard for the action.

The raunchiest Christ-



► John Cho as Harold, left, Neil Patrick Harris as himself and Kal Penn as Kumar in A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas.

mas movie has to Bad Santa, starring Billy Bob Thornton as a boozed-up, thieving department store Kris Kringle.

Unsentimental and crude, Bad Santa is bound to make the elves choke on their eggnog.

Dan Aykroyd also played a less than cuddly Santa in Trading Places. Drunk, disorderly and waving a gun around, he even has a fish hidden in his fake beard.

Unwrap Mixed Nuts, the 1994 Nora Ephron black comedy, and you'll find Christmas tree theft, lunatics and the worst Christmas gift ever: a dead body.

Staying up on Christmas Eve, waiting for Santa to come, will be easy after watching Black Christmas. You'll be too scared to sleep!

The tinsel terror about a mysterious killer in the attic is considered to be

the first modern slasher movie.

Gremlins mixes horror, humour and ho ho ho's. Set at Christmas, the story of little creatures who turn nasty when wet features a gory story about a missing father, a chimney, an overstuffed Santa suit and the punchline, "And that's how I found out there was no Santa Claus."

A very merry Crime Christmas can be had in both The Ref and Rein-

deer Games.

In The Ref, cat burglar Dennis Leary soon regrets breaking into the home of squabbling couple Kevin Spacey and Judy Davis on Christmas Eve.

Reindeer Games sees Ben Affleck reluctantly rob a casino at Christmas.

The movie is such a lump of coal that one of its stars had this to say about it: "That was a bad, bad, bad movie," said Charlize Theron.

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DIVORCING THE KARDASHIANS

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONews.ca



Wait — you didn't really think we were done with Kim Kardashian, did you? Far from it, cupcakes. When there's a four-hour reality TV special on your \$10 million wedding, you better believe there's weeks worth of gossip when you divorce 72 days later.

Humphries is 'devastated'

While Kim's statement was clearly written by her publicist while she went shopping, Humphries was a little less guarded: "I love my wife and am devastated to learn she filed for divorce," he said in a statement to E! News on

Monday evening. "I'm committed to this marriage and everything this covenant represents. I'm willing to do whatever it takes to make it work."

Are we starting to ... feel bad for a member of the Kardashian family? Make this stop. Make this stop right now.

Won't somebody think of the diamonds?!

In the divorce filing, Kim asked that jewelry acquired during their marriage remain hers, according to E! Online. The actual pieces are unspecified, and we don't put it past this girl to accumulate some serious gems in 72 days. That said, we're pretty sure this has something to do with that \$2 million diamond on her finger.

Our favourite explanation

If we start explaining the



► Kim Kardashian

divorce, are we implying that the marriage was real? No matter, this one is too good to pass up: Kim was annoyed that Humphries began "chasing fame" and

trying to break into Hollywood, reports TMZ. Save it for your three-part "moving on" special, lady.

TODAY'S THE WORD IS WRITTEN BY
MONICA WEYMOUTH

Death-defying Johnny Depp

► Star has surprising reaction when engines stop on private plane

Johnny Depp had a brush with death on a private plane recently, but at least he's taking it well.

"The plane just shut down. The sound of the engines stopped," Depp tells Life magazine of a flight he took with the Rum Diary director Bruce Robinson.

"Bruce and I were looking at each other and I think I said, 'Is this it?' It was like this weird extended moment when you're just floating for a second and you could feel this unpleasant descent."

The Pirates of the Caribbean star quickly realized what was happening, but his reaction wasn't expected.

"Nobody said a word except for Bruce and I, sitting



► Johnny Depp

next to each other saying, 'Oh s—! This is death. I guess this is how it goes down.' Then we burst into hysterical laughter at the idea that this was how we were going to die."

The engines soon kicked back on, though, and the flight returned to normal. ● METRO

Moore hits the town — alone



► Demi Moore

Demi Moore was spotted out recently, shaking off her recent marital troubles to enjoy a star-studded Halloween party in Beverly Hills, according to Us Weekly. "She was having fun, [and] she drank. But she wasn't the belle of the

ball. Everyone at the party was drunk," a source says. Other guests at the bash included Cameron Diaz, Eli Roth and director Todd Phillips. Moore, though, showed up alone, with Ashton Kutcher nowhere to be seen. ● METRO

Lohan to beg for mercy in court

Lindsay Lohan will reportedly try a new tactic at her probation hearing today: admitting she was wrong and begging for mercy.

According to TMZ, the troubled actress will fess up to skipping out on her previous community service obligations but main-

tain that she's now taking it seriously, having worked 24 hours at the L.A. County morgue in the last week.

It's a bold move, as at her last hearing the judge declared that if Lohan was found to have violated her probation, she'd go to jail.

● METRO



► Lindsay Lohan

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Travel in brief



Want first crack at the runs in Aspen? The Aspen Skiing Co. is offering an Ultimate Ski Pass that will let you have unlimited first tracks before chairlifts open to the public — for \$25,000. The exclusive passes also allow holders to meet members of the U.S. Women's Ski Team when they race in Aspen on the U.S. Thanksgiving weekend.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Gondola at Lake Louise ski resort to open for sightseeing rides this winter

Hit the slopes early

► With temperatures dropping and snow falling, early ski season never looked so good



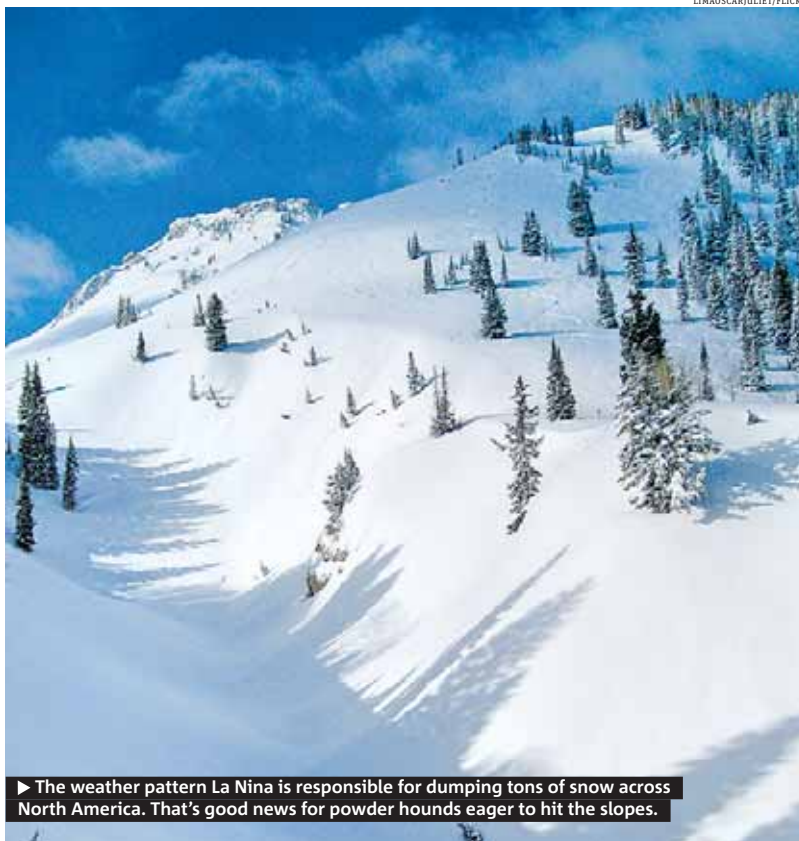
SUSAN GREENWOOD
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Two words: La Nina. It's a weather pattern, which simply put, dumps a ton of snow on North America — particularly in the north west and northern California. Last year it led to record snowfalls in many resorts — Mammoth saw 16.8 metres — while Fernie in British Columbia racked up 11 metres. If La Nina is back this year, and the signs are pointing to just that with colder-than-normal temperatures and heavy precipitation, then it's time to pick your resort.

Despite its relatively low altitude — the resort sits at 675 metres with the highest lift rising to 2,284 metres — Whistler, B.C., had a great season last year thanks to La Nina with 15.6 metres of snow falling.

Already the resort has seen remarkable snowfall with skiers riding the Blackcomb glacier as early as Oct. 6. Whistler is due to open on Nov. 24 and the resort is currently offering savings of up to 36 per cent on accommodation and lift pass packages if you book before Nov. 15. If it could get through the snow, that early bird could catch a great worm (whistlerblackcomb.com).

Keystone, Colo., will be throwing open its pistes on Nov. 4 with early-season skiers reaping the benefits of sophisticated



► The weather pattern La Nina is responsible for dumping tons of snow across North America. That's good news for powder hounds eager to hit the slopes.

snowmaking, sheltered tree runs and a superb snowpark without the crowds.

The resort shares the Epic pass with nearby Breckenridge, Beaver Creek, Vail and A-Basin so good snow is not hard to find (keystone.com).

Grand Targhee, Wyo. saw 14.8 metres fall last season and its dry powder

is the stuff of legends. The resort is so confident you will love it, it even offers a refund on your liftpass should your skiing be less than satisfactory (grandtarghee.com).

Alta, Utah, has a base elevation of 2,600 metres, making skiing a definite possibility come Christmas, or before — it plans to open on Nov. 18.

(alta.com).

If La Nina doesn't materialize you need a resort with good snowmaking, like Northstar-at-Tahoe, Calif. (northstaratahoe.com). Not only has the resort increased its skiable terrain by 10 per cent this season, but 50 per cent of it is covered by snowmaking facilities, so powder turns are guaranteed.

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▶ In 1999 Mt Baker held the record for the most snowfall in a season – 29 metres. Last year the small resort (only nine chairlifts) recorded 21.7 metres with 2.6 metres falling in November. Want powder? Head west. mtbaker.us



REVELSTOKE
British Columbia

With over 1,214 hectares of skiable area and North America's greatest vertical drop, this modest resort near Golden is a powder-hound Mecca offering Heli and Cat Skiing from the village base. revelstokemountainresort.com



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It's the great pumpkin

► Halloween may be over, and while all that candy quickly disappears, those gourds are still all over the place ► Time to carve up a few desserts — and keep your sweet tooth happy

DINNER EXPRESS

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA



Here's a show-stopper dessert that uses delicious home-made

caramel to add some pizzazz in flavour. The caramel firms up to give a slightly chewy toffee-like texture to these tarts and becomes the perfect backdrop for the pumpkin mousse to sit on. Warm the remaining caramel sauce and drizzle it over the tarts before serving.

Caramel Pumpkin Spice Mousse Tarts

Preparation:

1 In a high-sided heavy saucepan, stir together sugar and water over medium heat, stirring until dissolved. Increase heat to medium-high, cover and bring to a rolling boil. Uncover and boil, without stirring for about 10 minutes or until deep amber colour. Swirl pan as necessary to cook evenly. Remove from heat and slowly add hot cream. Stir with long-handled spoon until blended

Ingredients:

- 1 cup (250 ml) granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) water
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) hot whipping cream
- 12 baked tart shells

Pumpkin Spice Mousse:

- 1/2 cup (125 ml) whipping cream
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) icing sugar
- 1 cup (250 ml) pumpkin or butternut squash puree
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) packed brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) each ground cinnamon and ginger
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) ground nutmeg

and bubbles subside.

2 Pour about 1 tbsp (15 ml) of the caramel into bottom of each baked tart shells. Refrigerate for 15 minutes or until caramel is set on top and reserve remaining caramel sauce.

3 In a large bowl, whip cream and icing sugar until they form stiff peaks. Using whisk, whisk in pumpkin, brown sugar, cinnamon, ginger and nutmeg until no streaks remain. Scrape mousse into piping bag fitted with star tip, pipe into caramel-

Caramel Pumpkin Spice Mousse Tarts



► This recipe makes 12 tarts.

filled tart shells and refrigerate for at least 1 hour or up to 1 day before serving. Tip: If you don't have a piping bag, fill a resealable plastic bag and pipe in

filling or spoon into prepared tart shells.

4 Warm remaining caramel sauce and drizzle tarts before serving.

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cocktail of the week

Pumpkin Pie Punch



This blend of spices, apple cider and ginger ale is delicious and rich, yet still refreshing. Leave it as is for kids, but add vodka or rum for an adult version.

- 1 can (398 ml/14 oz) pumpkin puree
- 250 ml (1 cup) packed dark brown sugar
- 5 ml (1 tsp) cinnamon
- 5 ml (1 tsp) ground ginger
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) nutmeg
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) ground cloves
- 2 l (8 cups) apple cider
- 2 l (8 cups) ginger ale

In a medium bowl, whisk together pumpkin, brown sugar, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg and cloves. Add apple cider and whisk until smooth and sugar is dissolved. Chill. In a punch bowl, gently stir together cider-pumpkin mixture and ginger ale. Serve with ice. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Have you made a major mistake?

► You're sick of the subject you've chosen to study and contemplating a switch ► Take a moment to mull this over



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Many students enter university knowing exactly what major they want to specialize in — at least they think they do.

But as students, we encounter new interests and challenges, giving us new-found perspective and knowledge. These insights can contradict existing notions and fall contrary to previous expectations.

I, for one, always knew that I wanted to study journalism, but I decided to enter university under another major so that I could work toward a greater understanding of my future program. In doing so, I built the proper knowledge, resources and mind-set required for journalism school.

But switching majors is not as easy as it seems. As someone who switched majors during my undergraduate degree, I know finding the right major for you can be difficult and overwhelming. There are many things to consider when doing so.

Meeting requirements

Each program has different requirements. Some programs are based on a



► Are you continuing your major because of family, societal or other exterior pressures? Dig deep and decide whether it's worth pursuing something you don't love.

grades-only application, whereas others require grades plus non-academic submissions, such as portfolios, or audio and tape submissions.

When I applied to Ryerson University's journalism program, I applied under the grades plus pro-

gram, which required me to submit a select number of published works. I completed a lot of work outside school hours so that my portfolio would guarantee me acceptance into the program.

Switching to a more specialized program will demand a lot more than high grades. Additionally, if you are applying to a program that is in-demand, you should make sure that your grades surpass the minimum grade requirement to get into the program.

Researching the program
Before deciding to switch

partment heads, people at the career centre and anyone who can help guide you in the right direction.

Do your research and don't forget about the simple, yet crucial requirements, such as having a minimum number of field-related courses and making sure that you do not miss crucial deadlines for transferring.

Sacrifice

Most people forget about the sacrifices that come with switching majors. When you decide to transfer programs you are agreeing to forfeit your existing major. Since program requirements vary, this could mean that the one or two years spent in your program will essentially be discredited and not counted toward your new major.

It also means having to start from scratch again. I was extremely happy to switch programs and be able to study my true calling. I was, however, a little disappointed when I realized that all my hard work was not going to be accounted for. It is a difficult reality to grapple with, especially if you are someone who wants to finish school as quickly as

possible, or if you face major financial constraints.

Then there are other minor inconveniences such as the transfer process, which can be difficult and laborious. There are many forms to fill, fees to pay and places to drop things off to.

Ultimately, however, you have to be in a major that is complementary to your abilities and preferences. If you are unhappy with what you are studying, it is not worth spending your time and money continuing.

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Not working out

If you find yourself in one of the following situations, you may want to consider switching majors:

- Failing the majority of your classes
- On academic probation more than once
- Always dropping classes
- Dreading school
- Unable to picture a career in your major

All-important advice:

- Being in the right major is crucial to your success and future opportunities, but remember that an education is what you make of it.
- Make an appointment with your academic coordinator or someone else who can help you weigh the pros and cons, and determine the best course of action.

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4
sports

Up and down

Nkem Ezurike

The Lower Sackville native has been named to the NCAA Big 10 women's soccer all-conference second team for the second year in a row. The sophomore Michigan Wolverines striker led her team in goals (11), assists (six) and points (28) this season and is only the ninth player in school history to earn all-conference honours twice in her career.

**Jim Charters**

The Cape Breton Capers men's basketball head coach resigned yesterday after nine seasons. Charters is a four-time Atlantic University Sport coach of the year who won a conference title in 2010. Former Dalhousie Tigers assistant coach and UNB Varsity Reds head coach Thom Gillespie will take over as interim head coach. **METRO**

- Defence a top priority for Rainmen as new season opens
- Halifax's team heads to London, Ont., for first game in NBL of Canada



► Spurred on by head coach Josep (Pep) Claros, right, Halifax Rainmen defenders go after the ball during last week's exhibition game against the Summerside Storm.

Tackling the pressure head on



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

The Halifax Rainmen are hoping to show the power of the press.

The Rainmen, who open the National Basketball League of Canada season on the road tomorrow night against the London (Ont.) Lightning, plan to hit their opponents with a full-court press after every made basket from the opening tip to the final buzzer.

Even when they don't score, the Rainmen will play full-court man-to-man defence.

It's possibly the biggest change brought in by new head coach Josep (Pep)

Claros.

"The press is going to dominate the league," said fifth-year Rainmen forward Eric Crookshank boldly. "We looked at a lot of scores in games (last season) and there was a lot of high scoring. This is going to slow everything down."

While the potentially smothering 48-minute approach may sound excessive, Claros said it has long been a staple of his philosophy. In 18 years as a professional coach all over the world, the 42-year-old has been to 10 national finals and won five championships.

He said he'll use all 12 players on his roster to keep players fresh and can hardly fathom the concept

of not pressing all game.

"You have 28 metres (in court length) to work with," Claros said. "I don't believe we just have to work the last seven metres of the floor."

Crookshank is one of three Rainmen returnees along with point guard Taliek Brown and centre DeAndre Thomas. Former NBA veterans Rodney Buford and Eddie Robinson add some serious scoring punch to the lineup, as does forward Shawn Hawkins.

While defence at the minor professional level is often an afterthought, the players are saying all the right things on the eve of the season.

"It's a lot of work, but

we're in shape for it," said Crookshank, who is a two-time Premier Basketball League defensive player of the year. "Coach told us, 'If you ain't prepared to come in and press, you ain't prepared to play. It doesn't matter who you are.'"

The Rainmen have lost in the past two PBL semifinals, and Crookshank said the team hopes to become the first champion of the NBL of Canada.

Claros wants that too, but said his players will have to dig deeper to achieve success.

"If they want to win, everything costs something," he said. "You have to spend some energy and burn some calories to be successful."

3

NEWCOMERS TO WATCH



RODNEY BUFORD
Shooting guard

► Although he's 36 years old, the six-foot-five guard averaged 6.4 points per game during his 230-game NBA career.



EDDIE ROBINSON
Guard/forward

► He'll miss opening weekend with a hamstring injury, but he's a very athletic scorer with 278 games played in the NBA.



SHAWN HAWKINS
Forward

► The grandson of former NBA great Connie Hawkins is a solidly-built six-foot-six forward who can do a little bit of everything.

Bruins put kibosh on Senators' streak

► Ottawa's run of six-straight wins ends as Boston awakes in second



36

Craig Anderson stopped 36 shots for Ottawa, which hadn't lost since Oct. 18.

Nick Foligno finished with a goal and two assists, and Stephane DaCosta had a goal and an assist for Ottawa.

After getting outplayed in the second, the Senators grinded out the early part of the third and tied it when Foligno dropped a pass back to the point to Cowen, who fired a slap shot past a screen of players and Thomas's right pad.

But Boychuk tied it on a blast from the point with 13:19 to go, and Paille took a pass from Shawn Thornton for a breakaway and scored on Anderson with 12:42 left.

Foligno gave Ottawa a 1-0 lead in the first period when he grabbed a loose puck and lofted a backhander off Thomas's blocker. The puck dropped behind him, and Bobby Butler crashed the net for Ottawa, occupying Thomas and the Bruins as the puck trickled across the goal line.

Milan Lucic tied it with a power-play goal with 12:48 left in the first, lifting a rebound over Anderson, but Ottawa struck again barely a minute later.

Foligno pounced on a loose puck and slid a backward pass between his legs to Stephane DaCosta, who poked a shot past Thomas as the details of Lucic's goal were being announced to the crowd.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Johnny Boychuk and Daniel Paille scored 47 seconds apart to break open a tie game in the third period, and the Boston Bruins ended a three-game losing streak with a 5-3 win over the Ottawa Senators on last night.

Chris Kelly had a goal and an assist, and Zdeno Chara had two assists for the defending Stanley Cup champions, who finished the first month of the season with the worst record in the Eastern Conference (3-7).

The Bruins also snapped the Senators' six-game winning streak.

Boston outshot Ottawa 16-7 in the second period and took a 3-2 lead on goals by Patrice Bergeron and Chris Kelly, then put in two more after Ottawa's Jared Cowen tied it at three-all on his first NHL goal with 14:56 left.

Boychuk gave Boston a 4-3 lead with a slapshot from the point, and less than a minute later Paille scored on a breakaway to put the Bruins up by two.

That was a big enough cushion for Tim Thomas (4-4), who finished with 23 saves.

Craig Anderson (6-3) stopped 36 shots for Ottawa, which hadn't lost since Oct. 18.



► From left, Tyler Seguin celebrates with Bruins teammates Zdeno Chara, Tim Thomas and Hammonds Plains' Brad Marchand in Boston last night.

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Engine

Very little has changed beneath the hood of both gasoline-engine Camrys, although Toyota now rates the standard-issue 178-horsepower 2.5-litre four-cylinder at 8.2 l/100 km in the city and 5.6 on the highway, compared to the 2011 model's 9.0/6.0 numbers. Meanwhile, the carryover 268-horsepower 3.5-litre V-6 achieves a claimed 9.7/6.4 city/highway, compared with 10.6/6.8 before.

Interior

The interior is where this Camry makes a definitive statement. The organically-shaped dashboard presents a layered appearance and lacks the former droopy look.

As well, the dash and control panel's shiny bits added to up-level models are tastefully done. Buyers can now choose from four different upholstery finishes, depending on the model, from woven fabric on base models to leather with faux suede seat covers at the luxury end of the scale.

Gas-saving Hybrid

Easily the most impressive fuel-efficiency gain originates from the new Camry Hybrid. Toyota has installed a 156-horsepower 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine that replaces the 147-horse 2.4-litre. The 2.5 functions in tandem with an electric motor. Most importantly, fuel-economy numbers improve to 4.5 l/100 km in the city and 4.9 highway, versus 5.7 city and highway for the 2011 Hybrid. Additionally, the more compact battery system located behind the rear seat means more trunk space.



What you always get in a Camry ... and more



MALCOLM GUNN
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It has been a rocky road for the Toyota faithful as the company recovers from natural disaster and a rash of very public — and extensive — recalls that threw into question its normally cut-above-the-rest reputation.

So, the question is whether the new seventh-

generation Camry and Camry Hybrid will get you down to the dealership to sign on the dotted line.

Honestly, it should, based on a number of key incremental improvements to fuel economy and interior quality in particular.

Despite the best efforts of the Honda Accord, Chevrolet Malibu and Hyundai Sonata, the Cam-

ry has owned the numero uno spot outright for the past decade.

And it has managed this feat by playing it safe with styling, steadily improving its safety and technology features and offering its loyal owners plenty of cabin comfort and refinement.

For 2012, the Camry's oh-so-subtle physical changes include a pointier

front end, chiselled front fenders and an accent crease extending across the doors and fenders.

Compared to a similarly contented 2011 base model, the list price has been reduced by \$1,600. You might consider that a return-to-full-strength bonus, however for the conservative Camry, saving money is always in fashion.

Toyota Camry

- **Type:** Four-door, front-wheel-drive mid-size sedan.
- **Engines (hp):** 2.5-litre DOHC I4 (178); 3.5-litre DOHC V6 (268); 2.5-litre DOHC I4 (156) combined with 105-kilowatt electric motor (200 net combined).
- **Transmissions:** Six-speed automatic; continuously variable (Hybrid).



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Sportage provides a sturdy SUV ride

SECOND GEAR



JUSTIN PRITCHARD
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Looking for a second-hand family hauler crossover?

The second-generation Kia Sportage is worth a check.

It's a five-seat compact ute that was available with four or six-cylinder power.

Sizing was in roughly the same ballpark as the Honda CR-V, Toyota RAV4 and Ford Escape.

The second-generation Sportage's lifespan on our shores ran from model years 2005 to 2009, with a mandatory makeover and refresh part way through.

2005 to '09 Kia Sportage



Engine

Look for a two-litre, 140-horsepower four-cylinder or a 2.7-litre V-6 with 173. Automatic or manual transmissions and front or four-wheel drive were available.



What owners like

Sportage owners enjoy a sturdy ride, compact handling and parking dynamics, confidence on slippery roads and plenty of real-world versatility. Overall interior and exterior styling are also rated highly, as is fuel efficiency with the four-cylinder engine.



What owners dislike

Complaints tend to centre mainly around poor engine performance, bare-bones equipment levels on low-end models, and excessive wind-noise at higher speeds.



Common issues

Ensure the cruise control and air conditioning work properly.

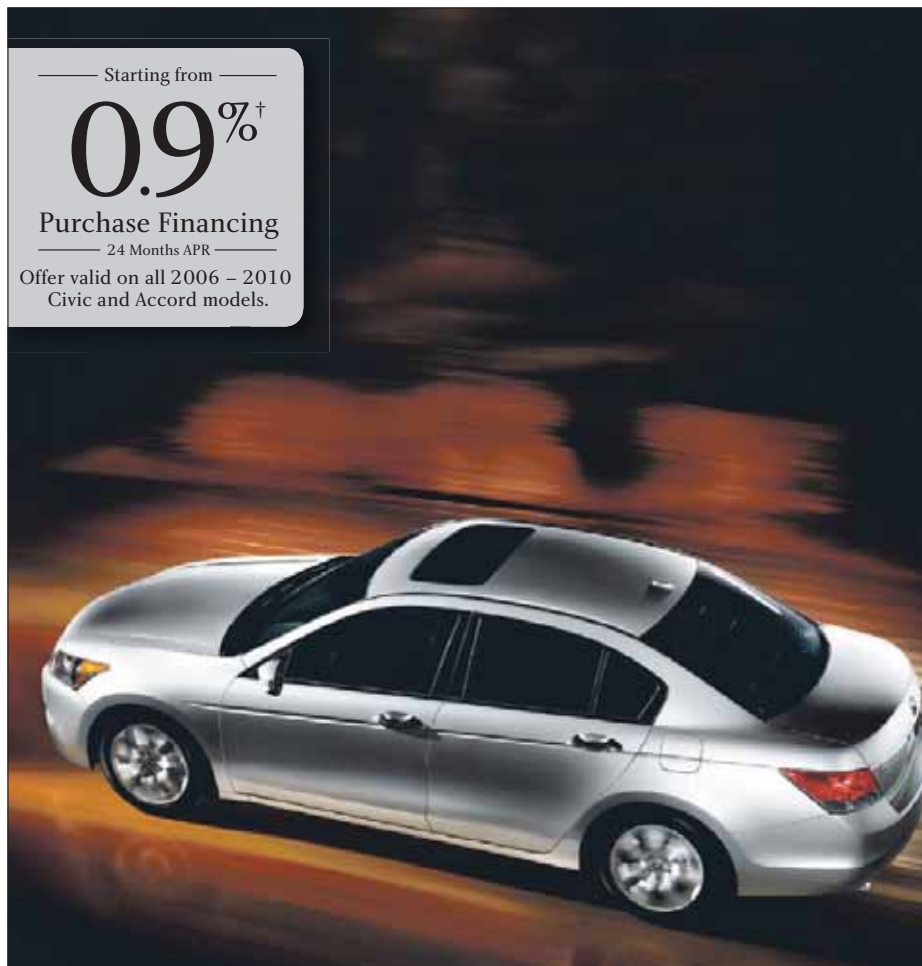
If the engine seems to "sputter" or deliver power in a "lumpy" fashion, the culprit could be a clogged fuel filter or a bad engine control sensor. Note that a mechanic can scan the engine computer for potential engine sensor issues.

Models with the automatic transmission that shift harshly or abruptly could be suffering from a computer-related problem as well.

Verdict

Where reliability is concerned, the Sportage looks like a solid second-hand bet. Thanks to relatively low resale values, one won't be required to sever an appendage when it comes time to pay.

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[illegible]

Even Porsche is into saving fuel

► New 911 Carrera boasts coasting function, among other features

DRIVING FORCE

JILL McINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

It's doubtful that fuel prices are the first thing people think about when they buy a sports car, but even automakers primarily concerned with performance need to worry about efficiency. One of the methods Porsche is using is its new coasting function. It's found on the new 2012 Porsche 911 Carrera with automatic dual-clutch PDK transmission.

When you're cruising

along in the top seventh gear and you don't need engine power, the system will temporarily go into neutral to conserve fuel.

"When you come off the gas (without the system) and there's engine braking, the car slows down because there's drag," says Laurance Yap, director of marketing for Porsche Canada. "This removes this effect and allows you to cruise at speed for quite a while."

The system is electronic and the gearshift lever doesn't move into neutral. If the driver puts his foot on the throttle, the engine hooks up again immediately.



► In European testing, the 2012 Porsche 911 Carrera achieves 16.3 per cent better fuel economy than the previous model.

"The car slows down a lot less than if you were to take your foot off the gas in a normal condition," Yap says. Since many drivers are on and off on the throttle on the highway, "it lets you conserve some of this kinetic energy rather than frit-

tering it away with engine braking," he says.

The engine doesn't stop running, but since it's not actively powering the wheels, it drops down to idle speed, reducing its fuel requirement.

The coasting function is

one of several fuel-saving features on the redesigned 911 Carrera, along with lighter-weight construction, an auto-stop system that shuts off the gasoline engine when sitting at a light, an electrical system that captures braking ener-

gy, and low-rolling resistance tires. The coasting function can generate fuel savings of 0.2 L/100 km, which isn't all that much on its own but which combines with other features to bring down fuel consumption.

The new coasting function is part of the stop-stop function in the PDK transmission, and both can be shut off by the driver if preferred. And while the driving experience is the top priority for most Porsche owners, Yap says they still think about fuel consumption.

"I think this efficiency is part of the 911 story," he says. "The other reality is that whether buyers care or not, we have to do what we can to meet the consumption regulations as well."

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Top 5: November 1st

- 5 Hedley - Invincible
- 4 Cobra Starship ft Sabi - You Make Me Feel...
- 3 Adele - Someone Like You
- 2 Bad Meets Evil ft Bruno Mars - Lighters
- 1 LMFAO - Sexy And I Know It

Weeknights at 9pm
Tessa counts down the HOTTEST 5 songs that day!

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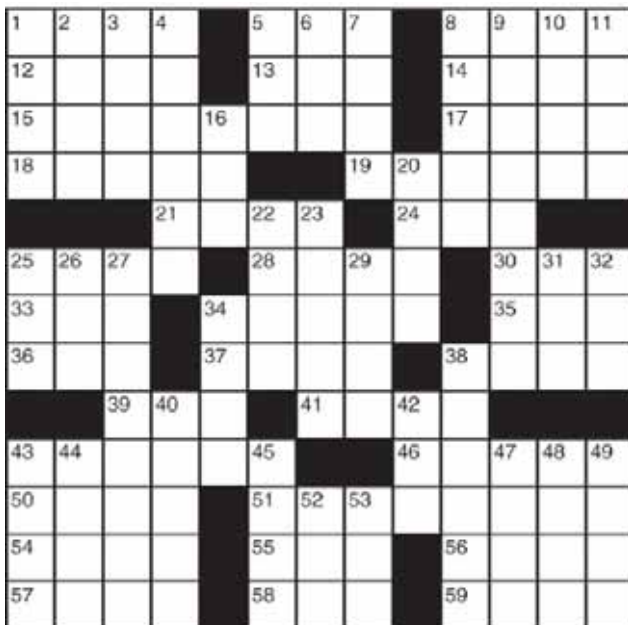
Crossword

Across

- 1 — and crafts
5 Life story, for short
8 Rim
12 Jump
13 Toss in
14 Caboose's position
15 Excited commotion
17 Muhammad and Laila
18 TV oldie, "Kate & —"
19 Used-car deal, e.g.
21 Small barrel
24 Kitten's call
25 Snatch
28 Places
30 Carte lead-in
33 Tackle moguls
34 Gold measure
35 In medias —
36 Crony
37 Basin accessory
38 Pelican's pride
39 Indivisible
41 Mimic
43 Ivanhoe's love
46 Bra seller's mannequin
50 "Sad to say, ..."
51 Lunchbox item, often
54 Catcher's aid
55 Snoop
56 Run-down residential area
57 Cookware
58 Moment
59 "Desire Under the —"

Down

- 1 Actress Jessica
2 Actual
3 Lofty



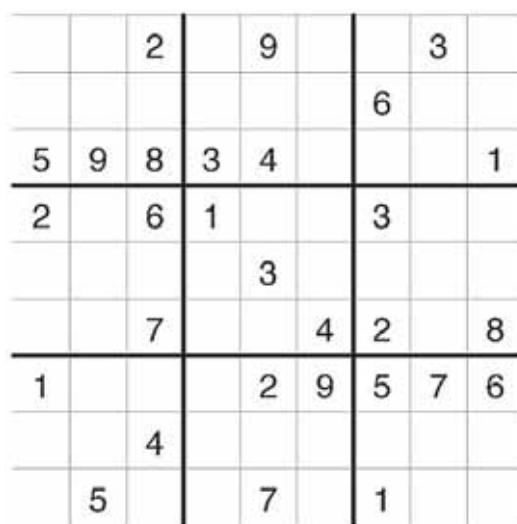
- 4 Repair, as film
5 Scrooge's cry
6 Altar affirmative
7 Smell
8 Obliterate
9 First State
10 Author Sheehy
11 Gaelic
16 Verily
20 Send out
22 Cabbage salad
23 "M*A*S*H" setting
25 Recipe meas.
26 Alias (Abbr.)
27 Electric power unit
29 Complain repeat-

- edly
31 Meadow
32 Request
34 Acute
38 Shop aimlessly
40 Birds' homes
42 Schedule abbr.
43 Freeway access
44 Hodgepodge
45 Venomous vipers
47 Streamlet
48 Icky pond surface
49 Resistance units
52 Exist
53 Big Apple letters

► Yesterday's answer



Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ►



Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Beautiful - When I said you had this guys heart I meant it, I do love you. The problem is you took it and flew away with it. Now i'm in Nova Scotia, heartless. I know you might not see this but I just want to say i'm still very deeply/strongly in love with you. I'm waiting by for you counting the moments until you return, until you bring this guys heart back and cherish it with him, together, as one. I love you Beautiful forever and always <3

FROM LOVE, YOUR E-VAN

Jessica Goyette - I love you so much baby your my best friend and someone I can always count on for having my back. We just recently passed our one year and I'm so glad to be with you. Your everything I want and your the girl that helps me keep my head high. I love you so much forever xoxo <3

BRADEN SEABROOK

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You have no fear at the moment and will follow your desires wherever they might lead.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Don't give away what should remain yours.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Cosmic activity in your opposite sign encourages you to accept that other people's opinions and your opinions differ in legitimate ways.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Watch out you don't get carried away with your own brilliance today.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23 Today's cosmic developments will do wonders

for your confidence and encourage you to believe that anything is possible.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22 You may not be the most emotional member of the zodiac but you will feel deeply for someone today.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 There is a danger that in your eagerness to get ahead and get the most from each and every situation you will overlook some small but important detail.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 It's not like you to be free and easy with money but you are in one of those moods where you really

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

don't care

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 You need a challenge that will bring out the best in you

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 There is no limit to what you can accomplish now

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 What happens over the next two or three days will open your eyes to new possibilities

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 You must play by the rules today, even if you know you can get away with cutting corners.

● SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest



"I used to be a hermit crab until I decided to cut loose!"

TOM S



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Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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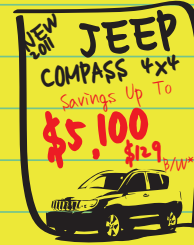
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2012's

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7 LEFT



14 LEFT

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#4



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